

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Technical Committee Minutes - January 31, 2008

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Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

Those present were:

Dave Engelhardt, BCATS staff; Dirk Westbury, BCATS staff; John Gaydos, City of Bay City; Adam Rivard, MDOT; Rick Fowler, MDOT; Jim Lillo, Bay County Road Commission; Terry Moulthane, Bay City; Dave Geiger, MDOT; and Mike Stoner, Bay Metro.

Minutes from November 29, 2007 Tech meeting:

A correction was noted by Geiger that on page 2 of the minutes in the third paragraph, it should read the November, 2007 Trail Summit, not the May, 2007 Trail Summit. It was moved by Gaydos, seconded by Moulthane, to approve the minutes from the November 29, 2007 meeting with the noted correction. Motion Passed.

TIP Funding - Gonzalo Puente from MDOT (via phone):

Engelhardt explained the obligation process, part of the agenda packet. Engelhardt also noted that approximately \$1.8 million is listed on the Local Agency Balance sheet for BCATS, but obligation authority is needed to spend any of that previously allocated, but unused funds. Discussion continued. Fowler called Gonzalo Puente from MDOT to get a detailed explanation of the Pro Rata vs. Lump Sum funding options. Puente stated Pro Rata projects will fund a specific percentage of the project, including cost overruns, if they are eligible costs. Lump Sum projects will fund only 80% of the awarded bid and cost overruns must be covered by the local agency. The funds to cover cost over runs for Pro Rata projects may first come from the unspent funds then the future TIP allocations, but not guaranteed to use the unspent balance first as obligation authority is needed. Discussion continued.

Puente also noted that it is the MPO's choice to use Pro Rata or Lump Sum, and can make exceptions in writing for specific projects to use the other funding options **prior** to federal obligation agreement.

It was determined by the committee to remain with Lump Sum as the funding standard for BCATS.

Henry Street Project Cost:

Engelhardt provide the committee with a handout comparing the funding breakdown for the N. Henry St project with the actual total participating and the engineer's estimate. It showed a reduction of \$148,890 to \$531,680 in the local match covered by Job's Today fund and a reduction of \$595,561 to \$533,429 in the STP funds from 2010. According to Puente, this \$595,561 can now be reallocated. That amount, along with another \$17,084 that currently is not assigned to a specific project in 2010, will leave \$612,645 available to be allocated to the Harrison St project.

A motion was made by Stoner, seconded by Gaydos, to recommend to the policy committee to correct the TIP for the updated Henry St. project costs. Motion Passed.

Gaydos added that he has received an invoice for the completed Henry St Phase I project amounting to \$70,000. He stated that should have be covered in the participating federal costs and will keep the committee updated on the status of the invoice.

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Status of 2008-11 TIP:

BCATS has received an initial approval that the 2008-11 TIP meets federal requirement, but is still operating under the 2006-08 TIP since the STIP has yet to receive the final FHWA approval. Fowler stated that the STIP has been sent to FHWA and they are waiting to receive their approval. Fowler expects it to arrive early next week and will notify Engelhardt once approval is received. Until that time, FHWA is not accepting amendments to the 2008-11 TIP.

Amendments to 2008-11 TIP:

- Bay Metro Amendment: Job Access/Reverse Commute (JARC Funding)
Stoner explained the JARC grant received by Bay Metro and hope the program will help workers get to jobs during the hours the existing bus routes are not in operation. The grant received federal funds, so it must be listed in the TIP. It also has no local match. The grants consists of \$40,000 for operations in 2008, \$60,000/yr for operations 2009, 2010, and 2011 and \$70,000 for the purchase of 2 vans for JARC use in 2009.

A motion was made by Gaydos, seconded by Lillo, to recommend to the policy committee to amend the 2008-11 TIP to include the Bay Metro JARC grant. Motion Passed.

- City of Bay City Bridge Painting
Gaydos explained the three bridge projects to the committee. They are funded by federal funds (80%), state funds (15%) and a local match(5%).

A motion was made by Gaydos, seconded by Moulthane, to recommend to the policy committee to amend the 2008-11 TIP to include the Bay City Bridge projects. Motion Passed.

- Safe Routes To School Grant (not on agenda)
Engelhardt notified the committee that it was announced earlier this week that Bangor Twp. was awarded a Safe Routes To Schools (SR2S) grant for Christa McAuliffe Middle School totaling \$389,312. The grant is for the installation of new sidewalks along Kiesel Rd. and 2 Mile Rd. and a pedestrian crossing at Euclid Ave. and Kiesel Rd. This grant requires no local match.

A motion was made by Gaydos, seconded by Fowler, to recommend to the policy committee to amend the 2008-11 TIP to include the SR2S grant. Motion Passed.

Harrison St - Approved NFC Change:

Engelhardt informed the committee that Bay City has received confirmation that Harrison St from Cass Ave to McGraw St and McGraw St from Harrison to Broadway Ave have been changed from a National Function Classification of Urban Local to Urban Collector, thus making the roads eligible for federal funds. Prairie St has also been removed from the National Function Classification list, as the road will not be reestablished in the near future.

Gaydos added that the city is still waiting to here the status of the application for Category A funds for the reconstruction of Harrison St south of Cass Ave. It was also noted that the full \$800,000 that the policy committee stated could be applied to this project is not available. Only an estimated \$612,645 of STP funds is available to be allocated to the Harrison St project.

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Bay Arenac Dr - Possible NFC Change:

Lillo reported that the road needs to be fixed before the road commission would take the road over as a primary. Either Monitor Township would have to fund the cost to repair the local road or by changing the NFC to make the road eligible for federal funds. Lillo will look into the possible of changing the NFC.

Consumers Energy New Power Plant Update:

Engelhardt discussed the possible new consumers power plant and its affect on the transportation system in Bay County. One issue brought up is the increase in the rail traffic. Gaydos is expecting to receive rail traffic information and data from Consumer Energy on the result of the new power plant effect on the volume of rail traffic and will keep the committee informed.

Non-Motorized Information:

Engelhardt informed the committee our BCATS current non-motorized effects include participating in the Tri-County Regional Trails Study to connect existing trails in Bay City, Midland, and Saginaw. There is an upcoming Trails Charrette, hosted by ECMP&DR being held at the Community Center on Feb. 20th from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. for the Regional Non-Motorized Plan. Also that working on a Bay County non-motorized plan in 2008 is a listed work item in the BCATS FY 2008 UWP. We'll be using Genesee County's Non-Motorized plan as a template.

BCATS Annual Report:

The BCATS Annual report was published in the Bay City Times on December 29, 2007. BCATS staff has a digital copy available as well as hard copies.

Act 51 Legislation:

Engelhardt addressed the committee on the new legislation that created a Funding task force for transportation need in the state. They are looking for input from locals on their funding needs for transportation. The MPOs in the state will be attempting to assist the implementing agencies in calculating the best estimate of future transportation infrastructure improvement and maintenance costs.

Asset Management Reporting - Feb. 27 1:00-3:30 SVSU:

A training seminar will be held on February 27, 2008 at SVSU from 1:30-3:30 p.m. on the Asset Management Internet Reporting system. Currently, 40% are reporting now and the AMC is looking to improve that number. Gaydos stated that manpower issues are his reason for not reporting. Engelhardt also noted that the Asset Management Council is not focusing on rating local roads, and possibly rating just ½ of federal aid eligible road per year.

Project Updates:

The **North Henry Street Project Phase II** will begin March 10, 2008 and the city will have a public meeting coming up. The **Woodside Avenue Project** is complete, but Gaydos has noted 39 visible locations on the road where a bad bond had occurred with the pavement. The **Pine Road Project** will start back up in March or April, depending on weather conditions. The **Seven Mile Road Project** will have the GI on 2/11/08. The **I-75 Project** will begin mid-April and will be a 1-year project. The **Zilwaukee Bridge Maintenance Project** northbound is set to be closed February 18, 2008 until mid-May then southbound will close until July.

Other/New Business:

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Bay City Safety Grant - Gaydos reported that the city has contracted Spicer to put together a safety grant application for work the Marquette/Ohio/Walnut intersections using a Context Sensitive Solution that does not meet AASHTO standards. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Lillo, seconded by Gaydos, to recommend to the Policy Committee to provide a letter of support for the Bay City Safety Grant Applications. Motion Passed.

Josh DeBruyn - Engelhardt made the committee aware of Josh DeBruyn from the MDOT Transportation Planning Policy Division as one who is knowledgeable of what is eligible for the non-motorized 1% portion of Act 51 funds.

Asphalt Seminar- Lillo stated that the Asphalt seminar that both he and Gaydos attended was very beneficial and suggested if another one is held, sign up for the seminar early.

As there was no other business, the meeting as adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Engelhardt
BCATS Director

Transcribed by D. Westbury